

REMARKS

Claims 1-63 are pending in this application. Claims 1-31 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected group. Claims 32-63 are rejected. Claim 32 is amended hereby. Claim 39 is canceled hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 32-63 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious by International Patent No. WO 98/33974 (Kuhasalo et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,923,567 (Liedes et al.) or U.S. Patent No. 3,355,349 (Devlin) or U.S. Patent No. 4,997,524 (Nieminen et al.), Applicants have amended claim 32 and submit that claims 32-38 and 40-63 are now in condition for allowance.

Kuhasalo et al. '974 disclose a method and equipment in the forming of a lead-in strip A (Figs. 1A-1D) in a paper/board machine including two cutters C<sub>1</sub>, C<sub>2</sub> of which at least one cutter C<sub>2</sub>, being brought into connection with the web from outside the web, is a liquid cutter, preferably a water cutter (Abstract). In the first step first cutter jet C<sub>1</sub> performs first cut f<sub>1</sub> (page 6, lines 9-10. Second cutter nozzle C<sub>2</sub> forms second cut f<sub>2</sub> (page 6, lines 13-14). As shown in Fig. 1B, second cutter nozzle C<sub>2</sub> and second cut f<sub>2</sub> are shown closer to the web edge than first cutter jet C<sub>1</sub> and first cut f<sub>1</sub>.

Liedes et al. '567 disclose end conduction strip guiding element 10 (Figs. 1-3) in conjunction with a smooth-surfaced central roll 35 of a closed press section, on a lower sector thereof before doctor blade 39 (column 3, lines 61-65). From one side of web W, a narrow lead strip R is cut with a spray cross cutter (tail cutter/diagonal cutter) known in the art (column 5, lines 38-40). At first, a narrow lead strip R is cut, and when its run is stabilized, the spray cross cutter is traversed in the cross-direction of the web, and lead strip R is thus widened to be of full-width (column 5, lines 42-45). When the initial part 16R of plate 16 is formed to have a suitable,

fairly large radius of curvature  $R_0$ , the strip R is swiftly stabilized to be governed by effect of the transfer blow  $P_2$  and the guidance of the plate 16, and it is pulled taut so as to prevent bagging between the press roll 35 and end conduction strip guiding element 10 (column 6, lines 4-9).

Devlin '349 discloses an apparatus for conveying a lead strip from driers to calendars (Figs. 1-4) including endless belt-type conveyor 28 which extends between the drier and calendars to carry the lead strip therebetween (column 2, lines 39-42). The lead strip will pass over upper run 49 of the belt and the end portion of chest 48 adjacent pulley 30 and continue into waste (column 4, lines 5-7). Belt 29 is then placed in operation and roller 59 extended transversely thereacross (column 4, lines 7-9). The vacuum created in chest 48 results in the lead strip adhering to the moving belt so moving upwardly along the conveyor, and the portion of the lead strip now in the waste bin is automatically severed by cutter 78 (column 4, lines 10-14).

Nieminen et al. '524 disclose an apparatus for guiding and cutting off (Fig. 1) threading strip R including guiding plate elements 14a, 14b, which are supported by the frame structure at point 15a, 15b (column 2, lines 48-51). Guiding plate element 14 includes rows of nozzles 16, which blow in the length direction of element 14 (column 2, lines 51-53). Device 20 for cutting and guiding threading strip R is attached to guiding plate element 14 (column 2, lines 53-55). Device 20 includes first guiding plate 21, which is immediately followed by guiding plate element 14 (column 2, lines 55-57). Device 20 further includes cutting member 22, preferably a sharp saw blade 22, by way of which strip R is cut off (column 2, lines 57-60).

In contrast, claim 32, as amended, recites in part:

the edge strip extending in the web running direction, the transfer strip having a side, said edge strip has a relevant web edge, a first of said separation elements being configured to be disposed most closely to the relevant web edge, said first of said separation elements being configured to be activated first in order to produce the edge strip, a second of said separation elements being configured to be

subsequently activated to produce the transfer strip after tautening and deflection of the edge strip . . .

(Emphasis added.) Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Kuhasalo et al. '974, Liedes et al. '567, Devlin '349 or Nieminen et al. '524, or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

Kuhasalo et al. '974 disclose a first cutter jet C<sub>1</sub> performing a first cut f<sub>1</sub>, and a second cutter nozzle C<sub>2</sub> performing a second cut f<sub>2</sub>, where the second cutter nozzle C<sub>2</sub> and the second cut f<sub>2</sub> are closer to the web edge than first cutter jet C<sub>1</sub> and first cut f<sub>1</sub>. Kuhasalo et al. '974, Liedes et al. '567, Devlin '349 and Nieminen et al. '524 fail to disclose or suggest a first of said separation elements configured to be disposed most closely to the relevant web edge, the first of the separation elements configured to be activated first in order to produce the edge strip, a second of the separation elements configured to be subsequently activated to produce the transfer strip after tautening and deflection of the edge strip.

An advantage of the present invention is the transfer strip can be positioned such that it is ultimately taken up in its overall width in the relevant downstream machine section, and thus ensure in a simple and reliable manner that, for example, the transfer strip is gripped in its overall width by a respective roll nip, e.g. a winding nip or the like.

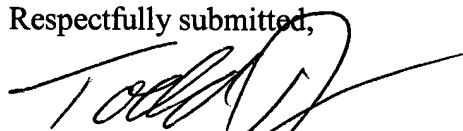
For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 32, and claims 33-38 and 40-63 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: July 21, 2004.

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